

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 2, 9 and 12 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10 are currently being amended. Claims 13-15 are new claims.

This amendment adds, changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 3-8, 10-11 and 13-15 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections under U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2, 3, 5-9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,772). In response, without acquiescing or agreeing to the rejection, Applicant cancels Claims 2, 9 and 12. Applicant adds new independent Claims 13-15 to further define the invention and distinguish it from the prior art.

Applicant respectfully submits that Saito et al. does not describe each and every element of new Claims 13-15. Claims 13 and 14 contain the recitation of structural features that are not present in Saito et al. Claim 15 contains the recitation of method steps that are not present in Saito et al. For example, claims 13 and 14 recite a resist roller on a first carrying path that aligns objects carried on the first carrying path. Claim 15 recites a step in which an object is carried through a first carrying path to a portion between an image carrier and a transfer device, after the object is aligned by a resist roller. These features are described, for example, on page 11 of the application. In contrast, Saito et al. does not disclose or teach a resist roller on a first carrying path. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 13-15 are allowable for at least these reasons, as well as for the other specific features recited in claims 13-15.

Applicant amends Claims 3, 5, 7 and 8 to depend from new independent Claim 13. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 3 and 5-8 are now allowable due to their dependence on claim 13, as well as for the specific features recited in those claims, and thus Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al., in view of Tsuchitou (U.S. Patent No. 5,872,900).

In response, without acquiescing or agreeing to the rejection, Applicant amends Claim 4 to depend from new independent Claim 13 and amends Claim 10 to depend from new independent Claim 14. Since new independent Claims 13 and 14 overcome the rejections made under U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicant submits that Claims 4 and 10-11 are now allowable because amended Claims 4 and 10 now depend from new Claims 13 and 14. Thus, Applicant submits that Claims 4 and 10-11 are now allowable and respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date October 18, 2004

By Pavan K. Agarwal

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Pavan K. Agarwal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,888